REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-18, and 20-23 remain pending in the present patent application. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 20, and 22 have been amended herein. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

In item 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 6-9, 13-17, and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,446,204 issued to Pang et al. (hereafter *"Pang"*) in view of U.S. Patent 6,615,264 issued to Stoltz et al. (hereafter *"Stoltz"*). A prima facie case of obviousness is established only when the prior art teaches or suggests all of the elements of the claims. MPEP §2143.03, In re Rijckaert, 9 F.3d 1531, 28 U.S.P.Q2d 1955, 1956 (Fed. Cir. 1993). In view of amendments to claims 1, 7, 9, 14, 16, and 22, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 1-2, 6-9, 13-17, and 21-23 be withdrawn.

To begin, claim 1 as amended recites as follows:

> 1.   A system for authentication, comprising:
>   a processor circuit having a processor and a memory; and
>   an authentication system stored in the memory and executable by the processor, the authentication system comprising:
>   a plurality of authentication agents, each of the authentication agents authenticating at least one user parameter by performing at least one authentication task;
>   an authentication manager that requests each of the authentication agents to authenticate an unauthenticated user parameter until all of the authentication agents have been requested to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter and the authenticated user parameter is authenticated by at least one of the authentication agents, unless one of the authentication agents fails to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter;
>   wherein the unauthenticated user parameter that all of the authentication agents are requested to authenticate is identical for each of the authentication agents; and
>   ***wherein each authentication agent is configured to indicate to the authentication manager that the authentication agent has authenticated the unauthenticated user parameter even though the authentication agent is not configured to perform a respective authentication task that is necessary to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter.***

As set forth above, claim 1 recites that each authentication agent is configured to indicate that to the authentication manager that the authentication agent has authenticated the unauthenticated user parameter, even though the authentication agent is not configured to perform a respective authentication task that is necessary to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter. In this respect, the authentication manager send a given unauthenticated user parameter to each one of the agents. If an agent is not equipped to authenticate the respective type of parameter, then the agent responds by informing the authentication manager that the parameter was in fact authenticated by the agent, even though this did not actually occur. Thus it is assumed that the authentication manager will send the given user parameter to each of the authentication agents and that at least one of those agents will be equipped to perform the proper authentication necessary to authenticate a user.

Applicants assert that the cited combination of references fails to show or suggest at least this element of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 7, 9, 14, 16, and 22 as amended be withdrawn for similar reasons described above with respect to claim 1. In addition, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 2, 6, 8, 13, 15, 17, 21, and 23 be withdrawn as depending from claims 1, 7, 9, 14, 16, or 22.

Next, in item 6 of the Office Action, claims 5, 12, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pang* in view of *Stoltz*, and further in view of US Patent 6,785,713 issued to Freeman, et al. (hereafter *"Freeman"*). Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5, 12, and 20 be as amended be withdrawn for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1 to the extent they apply to these claims as well.
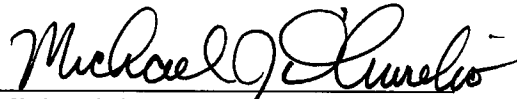
Next, in item 7, claims 3, 10, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Pang* and *Stoltz* as applied to claims 1, 9, and 16, and further in view of US Patent Application Publication 2002/0069247 filed by Packnad. A prima facie case of obviousness is established only when the prior art teaches or suggests all of the elements of the claims. MPEP §2143.03, In re Rijckaert, 9 F.3d 1531, 28 U.S.P.Q2d 1955, 1956 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Applicants request that the rejection

of claims 3, 10, and 18 be withdrawn as these claims depend from claims 1, 9, and 16 for the reasons described above with respect to claims 1, 9, and 16.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this Response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel of Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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